

Attorney Docket No.: 20518/14
USSN: 09/942,334
Art Unit: 2859

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims stand as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer comprising:
a removable module having a memory, a temperature probe storage chamber and a probe cover storage chamber, wherein said memory stores calibration information; and
a temperature calculating unit removably mating to said removable module.

2. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer comprising:
a removable module having a memory, a temperature probe storage chamber and a probe cover storage chamber, wherein said memory stores temperature probe identifying information;
and
a temperature calculating unit removably mating to said removable module.

3. (Original) An electronic thermometer according to claim 1 wherein said memory is capable of electrical communication with said temperature calculating unit when said removable module is installed to said temperature calculating unit.

4. (Original) An electronic thermometer according to claim 1 wherein said calibration information includes at least two calibration reference point parameters wherein each of said at least two calibration reference point parameters are taken at different temperatures.

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5. (Previously Presented) A method of preventing contamination of a removable temperature probe in an electronic thermometer comprising the steps of:

storing probe-identifying information in a memory chip;
connecting said memory chip to said temperature probe;
storing said temperature probe in a removable module;
storing a supply of clean disposable temperature probe covers in said removable module;
removably connecting said removable module to a temperature calculating unit; and
communicating said probe-identifying information from said memory chip to said temperature calculating unit.

6. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer comprising:
at least one removable module including a temperature probe and means for storing a supply of clean probe covers;
at least one temperature calculating unit capable of mating to said at least one removable module;
means for storing probe identifying information within said at least one removable module; and
means for communicating said probe identifying information between said means for storing and said temperature calculating unit.

7. (Original) An electronic thermometer according to claim 1 wherein said memory includes an EEPROM.

8. (Original) An electronic thermometer according to claim 1 wherein said memory is a 256 bit, 1-Wire, parasite-power, EEPROM.

9. (Original) An electronic thermometer according to claim 1 wherein said removable module includes means for storing probe-specific algorithm parameters.

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10. (Original) An electronic thermometer according to claim 1 wherein said memory is encapsulated within said removable module.

11. (Original) An electronic thermometer according to claim 1 wherein said memory is incorporated in a probe assembly of said removable module.

12. (Original) An electronic thermometer according to claim 11 wherein connections to said memory are protected from fluid incursion.

13. (Original) An electronic thermometer according to claim 11 wherein said memory is disposed in a connector portion of a probe cable assembly of said removable module.

14. (Original) An electronic thermometer according to claim 1 wherein said removable module includes a probe assembly incorporated therewith, said probe assembly comprising a temperature probe, an electrical cable and a first connector component, and wherein said first connector component includes fluid resistant mating terminals providing electrical connections to said probe and said memory wherein said memory is incorporated within said probe assembly.

15. (Original) An electronic thermometer according to claim 14 wherein said memory is overmolded within said first connector component.

16. (Original) An electronic thermometer according to claim 14 wherein said temperature calculating unit includes a header assembly incorporated therewith, said header assembly including header terminals in electrical connection with a microprocessor system, said header assembly mating with said first connector component of said removable module.

17. (Original) An electronic thermometer according to claim 16 wherein said header assembly is fluid resistant, said header assembly preventing fluid incursion to said microprocessor system.

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18. (Original) An electronic thermometer according to claim 14 wherein said probe includes at least one thermistor electrically connected with said terminals, and wherein said calibration information includes resistance values of each of said at least one thermistor, said resistance values corresponding to at least two different reference temperatures.

19. (Original) An electronic thermometer according to claim 14 wherein said memory stores temperature probe identifying information.

20. (Original) An electronic thermometer according to claim 19 wherein said probe identifying information includes a unique identification number associated with said temperature probe.

21. (Original) An electronic thermometer according to claim 20 wherein said unique identification number is a pre-programmed and validated EEPROM registration number.

22. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer comprising:
a temperature calculating unit; and
a removable module including storage for a supply of clean probe covers and a probe assembly incorporated therewith, said probe assembly comprising a temperature probe, a cable having a first end connected to said temperature probe and a second end connected to a connector portion; wherein said connector portion includes fluid resistant mating terminals providing electrical connections to said probe and, a memory wherein said memory is incorporated within said probe assembly;

wherein said memory stores temperature probe identifying data and temperature probe calibration data, said temperature probe identifying data including a unique identification number associated with said temperature probe;

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wherein said temperature probe includes at least one thermistor electrically connected with said mating terminals and wherein said temperature probe calibration information includes resistance values of each of said at least one thermistor, said resistance values corresponding to at least two different reference temperatures; and

wherein said temperature calculating unit includes a header assembly incorporated therewith, said header assembly including header terminals in electrical connection with a microprocessor system, said header assembly mateable with said connector portion of said removable module, wherein said header assembly is fluid resistant, said header assembly preventing fluid incursion to said microprocessor system.

23. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer according to claim 1 wherein said temperature probe storage chamber prevents storage of said temperature probe while a probe cover is installed on said temperature probe.

24. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer according to claim 1 wherein said removable module comprises an at least partially transparent housing for viewing said supply of disposable probe covers.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5 further comprising the step of providing means to store said temperature probe within said module for preventing storage of said temperature probe while a probe cover is installed thereon.

26. (Previously Presented) The thermometer according to claim 22 wherein said removable module comprises an isolation chamber that prevents storage of said temperature probe while a probe cover is installed thereon.

27. (Previously Presented) The thermometer according to claim 22 wherein said removable module comprises an at least partially transparent housing for viewing said supply of disposable probe covers.

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28. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer comprising:
a removable module comprising a memory storing probe identification and calibration
information,
said removable module comprising a probe storage chamber and probe cover supply
storage chamber permanently attached to said probe storage chamber; and
a temperature calculating unit removably mating to said removable module.